THREE BRIDGES

FOOTBALL CLUB

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

1995/96

Admission: Adults £2.00 Children & OAP's £1.00. **Programme:** 50p

THREE BRIDGES FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1901

Jubilee Field, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex
Tel: 01293 530540

Members of:
Unijet County Football League
Surrey South Eastern Combination League
Southern Youth League

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Jim Steel

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	Nick Edwards
Under 18 Team Manager:	Steve Green
Youth Liaison Officer:	Bill Familton
Physiotherapist:	Paul Reynolds

THREE BRIDGES FOOTBALL CLUB

"AN INVITATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US REBUILD"

It feels like only yesterday when everybody was handed their sponsorship forms to raise money to start the re-build programe. The clubhouse has come a long way since then! I think you will all agree that when it is completed we will have one of the finest clubhouses in the county. Serving the needs of both football and community activities.

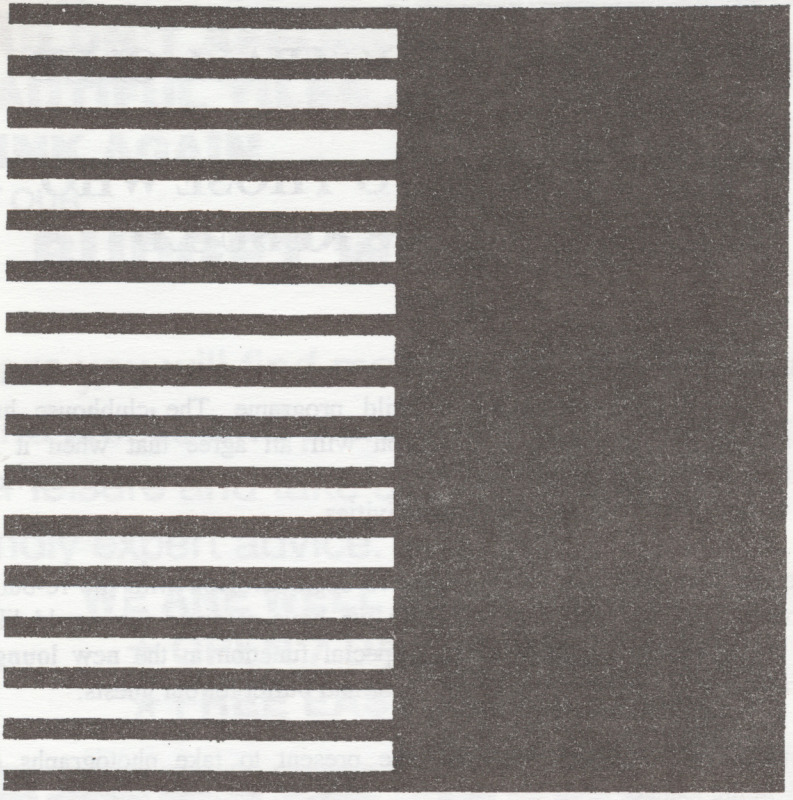
Over the last year a number of people have been involved with the re-build programme. In appreciation of all the help we have received we would like to invite those who have helped us to a special function in the **new lounge bar.** There will be complimentary draught beer and buffet for our guests.

N.B. Members of the local press will be present to take photographs of everybody in the lounge.

The date for this special evening is :
WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY.

PLEASE PASS ON THE WORD TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.
IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT EVENING, WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

ALAN BELL, CHAIRMAN.



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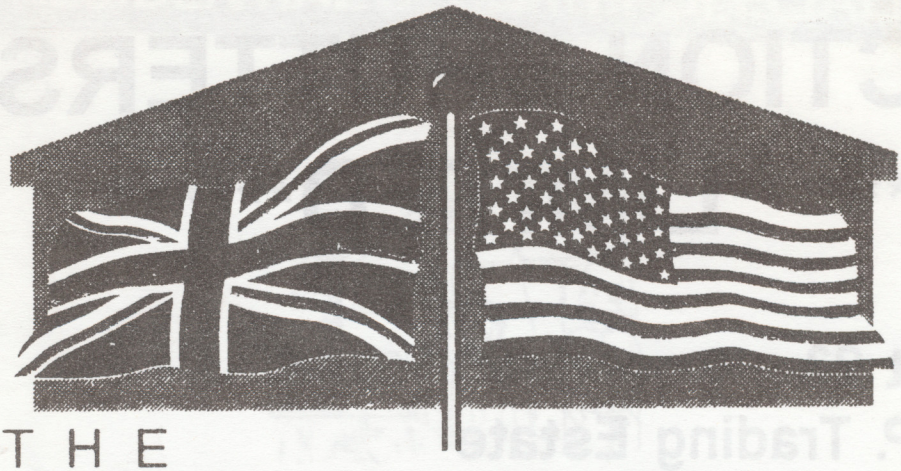

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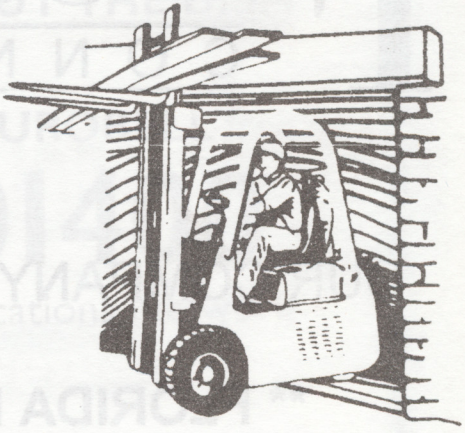

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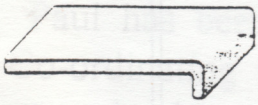

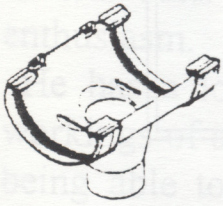

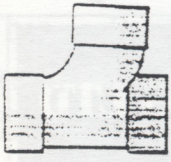

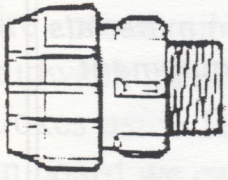

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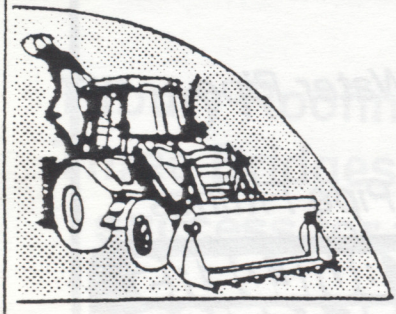

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THREE BRIDGES FOOTBALL CLUB

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE

23 JAN 96

TUESDAY ~~26th DECEMBER 1995~~

K.O. 11.00 a.m.

v

OAKWOOD F.C.

BRIDGES (Amber and Black)		OAKWOOD (Red and White)
Tony DUGDALE	1	Matt HEASMAN
Peter RANSON	2	Terry LACKEY
Paul LEAVER	3	Colin CRIMMEN
Darren HINTON (capt)	4	Shaun DONNELLY
Danny PUNT	5	Keith HURREN
Steve KNIGHT	6	Lee CALLOW
Darren COOKE	7	Nick GODFREY
David YEARWOOD	8	Joe CLARKE
Brian BAKER	9	Lee MANSELL
Lee POWER	10	Lee MOBSBY
John MALTHOUSE	11	Grant RHODES
Graham RASHBROOK	12	John MIST
Lance EARLY	14	Paul CRIMMEN
Glen NEWALL	15	

Alan KNIGHT — Managers — Paul CRIMMEN/ Mark RICHARDSON

Referee — Mr. Steve SAVAGE (Crawley)

Linesmen — Mr. Brian DOUBLE (Crawley)
Mr. Graham NEALE (Crawley)

Clubhouse Chatter

Well, we hope you've had a great Christmas so far and that you're ready for a bit of fresh air - and hopefully fun too!

The annual Boxing Day clash between ourselves and Oakwood is in danger of either not being played next season or worse still being a Second Division fixture, but let's hope for better fortunes for both sides in 1996.

We extend our normal warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Oakwood Football Club and also to the three match officials, all of whom have had really long journeys to get here this morning!

You'll notice that this programme has its fair share of light hearted moments, but the game will be treated with the importance it deserves I'm sure. Hopefully, you'll be able to stop for a drink after the game and admire the new bar - we are getting well on the way to completing our short term ambitions off the field, and hopefully we're getting back on the right track on the pitch too. Obviously, printing deadlines meant that we were unable to bring any details of last Saturday's fixtures, but we'll be catching up on news around the county in our programme for this Saturday's match against Langney Sports.

At some stage, we hope too to find room to mention our Youth teams and the Ladies. The latter had an exciting match here on Sunday 17th December when they beat Wimbledon to reach the last eight of the National League Cup. It was 2-2 after ninety minutes, 3-3 after extra time and then 5-3 to Bridges on penalties - now they've only got the likes of Arsenal, Liverpool, Doncaster Belles and Everton to overcome on their way to the final!!!!

One supporter who will be missing today is Bob Hurren, although he probably wouldn't have been so vocal today as his son Keith is one of five players on Oakwood's team sheet who we welcome back to the Jubilee Field. So our supporters need to make up for Bob's absence - come on the Bridges!

DIVISION ONE (as at 16th December 1995)

			HOME				AWAY					
	LEAGUE TABLE	P	W	D	L	F-A	W	D	L	F-A	PTS	G/D
1.	Stamco	20	9	–	1	50–9	7	1	2	27–13	49	+55
2.	Wick	16	7	2	1	31–8	5	–	1	16–7	38	+32
3.	Hailsham Town	17	5	2	1	14–6	6	2	1	29–15	37	+22
4.	Peacehaven & Tels	12	4	1	–	17–1	7	–	–	31–5	34	+41
5.	Langney Sports	20	2	3	5	18–22	8	1	1	25–7	34	+14
6.	Shoreham	15	6	1	2	16–6	3	1	2	10–11	29	+9
7.	Horsham YMCA	19	4	2	3	12–10	4	3	3	19–20	29	+1
8.	Ringmer	20	7	–	4	27–16	2	1	6	17–21	28	+7
9.	Arundel	17	6	1	2	28–15	3	–	5	13–22	28	+4
10.	Pagham	18	7	–	3	21–13	2	1	5	5–17	28	–4
11.	Hassocks	19	4	1	5	23–21	4	2	3	16–17	27	+1
12.	Portfield	16	5	1	4	25–25	3	1	2	9–9	26	0
13.	Burgess Hill Town	17	5	1	2	20–12	2	3	4	10–14	25	+4
14.	Whitehawk	20	5	1	4	16–15	1	3	6	13–21	22	–7
15.	Mile Oak	20	2	1	5	9–22	4	3	5	19–21	22	–15
16.	Southwick	20	2	3	2	6–7	3	2	8	7–27	20	–21
17.	Eastbourne Town	20	3	4	3	18–20	2	–	8	9–34	19	–27
18.	Three Bridges	20	3	2	5	13–25	–	2	8	11–28	13	–29
19.	Crowborough Ath	22	2	1	7	14–30	–	1	11	12–39	8	–43
20.	Oakwood	20	1	1	8	4–23	1	1	8	8–33	8	–44

RESULTS CHART

DIVISION ONE	ARU	BUR	CRO	EAS	HAI	HAS	HOR	LAN	M,O	OAK	PAG	PEA	POR	RIN	SHO	SOU	STA	T,B	WHI	WIC
ARUNDEL	x	–	5-2	P	2-4	–	2-2	–	–	6-0	3-1	–	–	–	2-0	2-3	–	–	3-1	3-2	–
BURGESS HILL TOWN	–	x	2-1	–	–	–	–	2-2	0-3	4-1	–	3-1	–	5-1	4-1	–	0-2	–	–	–	–
CROWBOROUGH ATH	–	2-3	x	1-6	–	2-4	2-1	1-4	2-5	–	–	–	P	–	–	–	0-1	1-4	2-1	1-1	–
EASTBOURNE TOWN	1-3	1-1	5-2	x	–	–	–	–	0-1	1-0	1-1	–	2-7	0-0	–	–	–	–	5-3	2-2	–
HAILSHAM TOWN	–	–	2-1	–	x	–	1-1	–	0-0	4-1	4-0	–	–	–	–	–	1-0	1-3	–	1-0	–
HASSOCKS	3-1	–	–	0-1	4-4	x	–	–	4-1	–	1-0	3-5	–	P	1-3	5-2	1-2	–	–	1-2	
HORSHAM YMCA	–	1-0	2-0	–	–	–	–	x	0-0	–	3-0	–	1-2	–	–	–	–	–	1-2	1-1	2-1
LANGNEY SPORTS	2-3	–	4-1	–	1-1	1-3	3-6	x	–	–	1-2	1a3	2-3	2-1	1-1	–	–	–	1-1	–	–
MILE OAK	1-3	–	–	2-1	–	–	–	1-5	x	2-0	–	–	0-3	2-2	–	–	0-5	–	1-3	–	–
OAKWOOD	–	0-3	0-0	2-0	1-5	0-3	–	0-4	–	x	0-1	0-2	–	1-4	–	0-1	P	–	–	–	–
PAGHAM	–	1-0	3-2	–	2-3	–	1-2	–	2-1	1-0	x	–	–	–	–	–	3-0	4-3	3-0	–	1-2
PEACEHAVEN & TELS	–	3-1	–	6-0	–	4-0	–	–	0-0	–	–	x	–	–	–	–	4-0	–	–	–	–
PORTFIELD	5-2	–	5-1	5-1	0-4	–	0-2	–	–	–	–	–	0-6	x	4-3	4-2	0-0	2-4	–	–	–
RINGMER	–	–	–	–	5-0	–	–	–	2-1	1-2	4-1	5-0	0-5	–	x	0-1	2-1	–	5-1	3-2	0-2
SHOREHAM	1-0	–	5-0	3-0	0-2	1-0	–	2-3	–	–	0-0	–	–	–	–	x	–	–	2-0	–	2-1
SOUTHWICK	–	–	–	–	1-0	–	0-0	2-0	1-3	1-1	–	–	–	–	–	–	x	0-2	1-1	–	–
STAMCO	6-0	5-1	–	9-0	4-0	6-0	–	–	4-2	4-0	–	–	–	–	2-5	–	7-0	x	–	3-1	–
THREE BRIDGES	3-1	–	1-0	–	1-6	3-3	0-1	–	1-4	–	P	0-4	2-1	–	–	0-0	–	x	–	2-5	
WHITEHAWK	–	1-1	–	–	–	–	0-3	–	–	1-2	1-4	–	–	0-1	2-1	3-0	2-0	2-1	4-2	x	–
WICK	–	0-0	5-2	–	–	–	–	7-2	0-1	–	7-1	–	–	–	–	2-0	–	3-0	1-1	2-1	4-0	x

WELCOME TO .... OAKWOOD

Ground	Tinsley Lane
Chairman	Alf Bridges
Secretary	Gerry Martin
Managers	Paul Crimmen and Mark Richardson

Joined County League in 1984/85

Division Three	1984/85
Division Two	1985/86 - 1987/88
Division One	1988/89
Division Two	1989/90
Division One	1990/91 - present

Highest Position in Division One 8th in 1992/93

Major Honours

Sussex Senior Cup Runners Up	1992/93
Division Two Runners Up	1989/90
Division Two League Cup Winners	1989/90
Division Three Champions	1984/85

1994/95 Season

Home Won 6 Drew 6 Lost 7 For 27 Against 34
Away Won 4 Drew 4 Lost 11 For 29 Against 59
Points 40 Position 15th

Best Home Win	2-0 v Crowborough Athletic
Worst Home Defeats	0-3 v Arundel, 0-3 v Wick
Best Away Win	4-0 v Littlehampton Town
Worst Away Defeats	1-8 v Peacehaven, 0-7 v Stamco

Bridges won 5-0 at home to Oakwood on Boxing Day last season, whilst the return fixture on Easter Monday resulted in a 1-1 draw.

Leading Scorer Zak Newman (19)

1995/96 Season

	Home	Away
Arundel		0-6
Burgess Hill Town	0-3	
Crowborough Athletic	0-0	
Eastbourne Town	2-0	1-1
Hailsham Town	1-5	1-4
Hassocks	0-3	
Horsham YMCA		0-3
Langney Sports	0-4	
Mile Oak		0-2
Pagham	0-1	0-1
Peacehaven & Telscombe	0-2	
Portfield		
Ringmer	1-4	1-4
Shoreham		
Southwick	0-1	
Stamco		0-4
THREE BRIDGES		
Whitehawk		4-1
Wick		1-7

Since taking over the day to day managers' duties from **Alan Gould** (who is now General Manager at the club), **Paul Crimmen** and **Mark Richardson** both say they are enjoying the challenge despite it being quite tough at the moment.

29 year old Paul was born in Redhill and is single, whilst Mark - now 35 - hails from Harrow in Middlesex and has a "steady girl friend!". Paul is still playing and will fit in "anywhere where I can get a game", but Mark feels that his playing days - apart from Sunday soccer - are "probably finished".

Paul's favourite position is in the centre of midfield, but he has served Oaks as a centre forward and in the heart of defence previously. Whilst there have been a number who have become "Bridges people" over the years, it was suggested to both Paul and Mark that "Oakwood people" are only now beginning to surface on a regular basis, and surely they are two such people.

Both agreed on this. Paul has been with Horsham and Southwick as a player, but "my heart has been at Oakwood for most of the last eight years, and it would take something to get me away", whilst Mark - who has also played for Southwick and East Grinstead - says that "Oakwood is where my heart is", hardly surprising when you consider that he was with Oakwood when they were in the Southern Combination and has been at the club ever since they became a County League side in the mid eighties! "We both tried to get away and play better football when we joined Southwick in their Diadora League days", recalls Mark, "but we are both Oakwood men".

"It's been a good introduction to management", said Paul when asked about this new role, "and I'm sure I'll enjoy it more when we win. The good thing for us is that people are on our side and there is no back stabbing at the club. Both Alf (Bridges) and Alan (Gould) leave us to get on with the job".

Mark's view is unsurprisingly similar - "it's been tough in terms of results, but we knew that it would be hard when we took it on. It may seem a limited ambition to merely stay up, but I know it's very difficult to get out of Division Two. East Grinstead struggled at the start of this season for example and are only now starting to challenge for promotion".

"Fourth from bottom will be good for us", admits Paul, "and we need to stay in Division One. If we were playing bad football, I'd accept our League position easier, but we've had no luck. We've been a bit naive at the back and we're not scoring enough goals, but we're always trying to strengthen the side. We could take nine points over the holiday period however and then we're looking at things totally different again!"

"With our proposed move it's vital that we don't go down", says Mark, "because it's no good having the best facilities but being a Division Two side. I don't think that we'll both go down and as I'm sure that Alan (Knight) is looking to strengthen his side as well. We need just one result to turn things round".

Crimmo and Rico deserve some reward for their dedication, and Paul has the last word - "there are good players locally but maybe they're spread too thinly. But I don't want to see either us or Bridges go down - that wouldn't be good for the town".

Bridges 1995/96

Date	Venue	Comp	Opposition	Result	Scorers	MOM
12/08	A	USCL	Southwick	1-1	Leach	Carney
15/08	A	USCL	Shoreham	0-2		Malthouse
19/08	H	USCL	Peacehaven & T.	0-4		Carney
22/08	H	USCL	Portfield	2-1	Cook 2	Cook
26/08	H	FAC	Camberley Town	0-5		Cook
29/08	H	USCL	Wick	2-5	Archard, Malthouse	Hinton
02/09	A	USCL	Whitehawk	2-4	Lyons, Cook (pen)	M.Maguire
09/09	A	USCL	Arundel	1-3	Aylward	Knight
12/09	H	USCL	Hailsham Town	1-6	Malthouse	Cook
19/09	H	USCL	Mile Oak	1-4	Baker	Eaton
23/09	H	RUR	Ringmer	1-2	Malthouse	Leaver
30/09	A	FAV	Godalming/G'ford	0-1		Cook
06/10	H	USCL	Horsham YMCA	0-1		Early
10/10	A	USCL	Crowborough A.	1-2	Baker	Cook
14/10	A	USCL	Eastbourne Tn.	3-5	Newall 2, Rashbrook	Cook
17/10	A	USCL	Ringmer	1-5	Baker	Leach
21/10	A	JOHC	Hailsham Town	2-6	Ringrose, Whitehouse	Welch
28/10	H	USCL	Southwick	0-0		Newall
01/11	A	SFC	Hailsham Town	2-6	Malthouse, M.Waddell	Blackler
04/11	A	USCL	Pagham	0-3		Malthouse
07/11	H	SFC	Hailsham Town	1-0	Cooke	Power
11/11	H	USCL	Arundel	3-1	Power 2, Malthouse	Power
17/11	A	USCL	Horsham YMCA	1-1	Yearwood	Yearwood
25/11	A	SSC	Stamco	0-4		Hinton
02/12	A	USCL	Wick	1-2	Baker	Punt
09/12	H	USCL	Hassocks	3-3	Power 2, Malthouse	Punt
16/12	H	USCL	Crowborough A.	1-0	Baker	Punt
23/12	A	USCL	Hassocks			
26/12	H	USCL	Oakwood			
30/12	H	USCL	Langney Sports			
02/01	A	USCL	Burgess Hill Tn.			

Match Analysis

Saturday 16th December 1995 (home) Crowborough Athletic
Won 1-0 Half Time : 0-0

Bridges : T.Dugdale, P.Ranson, P.Leaver, D.Hinton, D.Punt, S.Knight (G.Rashbrook, 15), D.Cooke (L.Early, 77), D.Yearwood (G.Newall, 69), B.Baker, L.Power, J.Malthouse.
Scorer - Baker (79).

Crowboro : P.Worthington, J.Wilton, B.Goffe, M.Gillham, M.Moore, P.Marsh, S.Martin, M.Radford, L.Rodgers, A.Smith, L.Wooden.
Subs. - S.Carey, D.Powell, D.Rusha.

Referee : Mr. Doug Holford (Hailsham).

A victory that we obviously needed, but so too did Crowborough, who actually looked more positive in the first half as we produced a fairly lethargic performance.

But at least our back line looked in command for most of the time, and even an early injury to Steve Knight (bad cut on his head) didn't put us out as Graham Rashbrook proved a more than satisfactory replacement.

Lee Power had our first chance after only two minutes following a great ball from John Malthouse wide to Paul Leaver, whose cross was just as good, but Lee got under the ball and the header went over.

Brian Baker headed wide from Peter Ranson's free kick and Lee came close when he made space for himself with a turn of which Stan Collymore would have been proud, but like Stan the Man the finish was too high!

For all of Crowborough's possession, they didn't really create too

many chances, largely because of Danny Punt's constant interceptions (not only in the air either) and Darren Hinton's assured and very confident display behind Danny. But Tony Dugdale was needed six minutes before the break when he had to make a good save to keep out a fierce drive by Stewart Martin.

We began the second half looking far more positive, and John Malthouse was close twice in quick succession in the opening minute. Lee Power chipped narrowly wide after a good through ball from Darren Cooke, but Martin came close again with a first time volley.

A couple of substitutions gave us an extra bite, and from Malty's corner to the far post, Brian Baker rose to head home superbly. It proved to be the match winner, but Danny Punt had an effort blocked by keeper Paul Worthington after some good play by Glen Newall, who also came close. Brian Baker had a drive pushed away in the last minute, but there was a minor fright at the other end when Max Radford hit our crossbar direct from an inswinging corner!

Men of the Match (selected by Steve Nunn) -
Bridges - Danny Punt Crowborough - Stewart Martin

Details of last Saturday's match at Hassocks will appear in our next programme, which is scheduled for

Saturday 30th December 1995 v Langney Sports, k.o. 3.00

Class Of '71 - Darren Hinton

Born on 19th February 1971 (which makes him a mere 26 years younger than the Programme Editor!), Darren Hinton was born in Crawley and is a Salesman "for Peter Ranson's company".

His list of former clubs is almost as long as a railway timetable, but he started with Chelsea (where his father Marvin had been such a stalwart) and has since worn the colours of Brighton, Bognor, Croydon, Whyteleafe ("a short spell there"), Horsham,

Arundel, Pagham and East Grinstead.

This is also his third spell at the Jubilee Field. "I had three or four games when Steve Breach was manager, and then I was here with Bobby Nash before I went to East Grinstead." His latest spell began just over a year ago when he came to us from Arundel, but not before he had scored the consolation goal for them in a 1-6 defeat here.

So how come Darren doesn't score more goals when he obviously seems so comfortable on the ball and can seemingly scythe through a defence with ease? "I think it's because it's more important for the team that I defend rather than express myself as an individual", he says openly. "I'm happy to defend, and although I don't think I've got a particularly good engine, I think I can pass balls short or long, and at the moment I'm serving the team best by playing like that".

Did he like playing in midfield as he did for a short spell earlier in the season? "I quite enjoyed it, but although I had a bit of a free role, I don't think we are ready to accomodate me in that role at the moment".

He was given the captaincy of the side a couple of months back and it's a task he obviously relishes, but with such a classy player in the side and with obvious other quality players around him, why does he feel Bridges are in their current position?

"I know that changes off the park shouldn't really affect players, but somehow they have, and this year we've had a lot of activity off the field. The change of management meant a change in our style of play too, but I think that basically our problem has been that we have lacked a natural goalscorer. We've created enough chances, and had Gary Chandler been fit, I'm sure he would have already had twenty goals to his name".

With his defensive duties being so important to the side, Darren's opportunities to get forward will remain limited, but "when we're not so desperate to get points, who knows what I might do?"

"In the short term, my ambition is to get us out of the position we're in and hopefully make us as successful on the field as it looks likely we're going to be off it".

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2nd XI Match Analysis

Saturday 16th December 1995 (away) Sidley United
Won 3-1 Half Time : 1-1

Bridges : K.Page, A.Jordan, B.Carney, M.McQueen, L.Eaton, D.Leach, S.Thomas, M.Karcha (M.Archard), M.Waddell (M.Stacy), G.Chandler, T.Whitehouse (L.Waddell).
Scorers - Chandler(40), M.Waddell(75), L.Waddell (88).
MOM : Dave Leach.

We went behind after only five minutes when a corner was punched out by Kevin Page and volleyed back superbly from the edge of the box. But for the second season running, we avenged a home defeat against Sidley, and whilst it wasn't a repeat of last season's 8-1 scoreline, it proved a fairly convincing victory by the final whistle.

Gary Chandler began and ended the move for the equaliser when he hit a fifty yard pass out to Matt Karcha. Matt's pace saw him cruise past the full back and his inch perfect cross was met by Gary, who volleyed his first goal since returning from injury.

A great team goal - with virtually everyone involved - gave us the lead. Mick McQueen somehow found himself in the box and his final pass found Mark Waddell, who struck home from twelve yards.

With time running out, Mark Stacy won the ball well in the middle and sent Lee Waddell away. As the keeper came out, Lee chipped him and the points were ours!

Details of last Friday night's important meeting with East Grinstead will appear in our next programme.

The Reserves end the year with a trip to Lewes this Saturday (30th December).

2nd XI Results

Date	Venue	Opposition	Result	Scorers	MOM
25/08	H	Haywards Heath	3-1	Eaton, M.Waddell, Hobbs	Yearwood
02/09	H	Lewes	3-2	L.Waddell 2, Hill	Eaton
09/09	H	Sidley United	1-2	Nunn	Thomas
15/09	H	Franklands Village	1-1	Leach	Hill
22/09	A	Oakwood	2-0	L.Waddell, Stacy	Early
30/09	A	Newhaven	3-2	L.Waddell 2, Stacy	Petty
07/10	H	Cowfold (Mid Sx Cup)	2-1	Stacy, Whitehouse	Whitehouse
14/10	H	B.O.C.(Sx Int Cup)	1-0	Karcha	Thomas
21/10	H	Seaford Town	8-0	Rashbrook, Hobbs, L.Waddell 3, M.Waddell, Stacy, Karcha	Rashbrook
28/10	A	Franklands Village	4-2	L.Waddell 2, Cooke, Stewart	Jordan
04/11	H	Bexhill Town	1-1	Thomas	Leach
11/11	A	Barclays Brighton (Sx Int Cup)	1-6	McQueen (pen)	-
18/11	H	Lancing (Res Sect Cup)	4-2 aet	Whitehouse 3, Karcha	Whitehouse
25/11	H	Lindfield (Mid Sx Cup)	3-0	Leach, Newall 2	McQueen
02/12	H	Eastbourne United	5-2	Newall 3, M.Waddell, Early	Newall
09/12	A	Redhill	P		
16/12	A	Sidley United	3-1	Chandler, M.Waddell, L.Waddell	Leach
22/12	H	East Grinstead			
30/12	A	Lewes			

MOM

2 : Dave Leach, Steve Thomas, Tim Whitehouse

1 : Lance Early, Laine Eaton, Mick Hill, Andy Jordan, Mick McQueen, Glen Newall, Jon Petty, Graham Rashbrook, David Yearwood

2nd XI Appearances and Scorers

Appearances

15 : Mark Waddell
12 : Mick McQueen, Mark Stacy
11 : Brendan Carney, Andy Jordan, Dave Leach, Jon Petty
9 : Lee Waddell
7 : Laine Eaton, Stuart Hobbs, Steve Thomas
6 : Mick Hill, Matt Karcha
5 : Paul Blackler, Malcolm MacKinnon
4 : Tim Whitehouse
3 : Lance Early
2 : Mark Archard, Gary Chandler, Dave Coldwell, Darren Cooke, Tony Dugdale, Steve Knight, Glen Newall, Steve Nunn, Kevin Page, Peter Ranson, Danny Punt, Steve Welch, David Yearwood
1 : Dean Blackmore, Darren Hinton, Lee Power, Graham Rashbrook, Luke Ringrose, Steve Spencer, Robbie Stewart, Lee Sullivan

Playing Substitutes

7 : Matt Karcha
3 : Lee Sullivan, Lee Waddell
2 : Brendan Carney, Paul Foote, Steve Knight, Malcolm MacKinnon, Mark Stacy, Robbie Stewart
1 : Mark Archard, Dean Blackmore, Danny Cook, Darren Cooke, Stuart Floyd, Mick Hill, Stuart Hobbs, Lee Maguire, Martin Maguire, Steve Nunn, Lee Power, Luke Ringrose

Scorers

11 : Lee Waddell
5 : Glen Newall
4 : Mark Stacy, Mark Waddell, Tim Whitehouse
3 : Matt Karcha
2 : Stuart Hobbs, Dave Leach
1 : Gary Chandler, Darren Cooke, Lance Early, Laine Eaton, Mick Hill, Mick McQueen, Steve Nunn, Graham Rashbrook, Robbie Stewart, Steve Thomas

A Team Match Analysis

Saturday 25th November 1995 (home) Oxted
Won 8-3 Half Time : 3-1

Bridges : K.Page, S.Hobbs, M.Ojiaka, U.Ojiaka, M.Archard, L.Eaton, K.Green (S.Lawrence), R.Stewart, S.Nunn, S.Lewis, L.Waddell.
Non Playing Sub. - R.Jacob.
Scorers - Lewis 3, Waddell 3, Stewart 2.
MOM : Sam Lewis.

Despite going a goal behind after just two minutes in this Cup tie against Second Division opposition, we then produced a stunning display against our supposed betters.
Goal of the game started from Kevin Page's throw to Mike Ojiaka, who fed it to Mark Archard, who in turn set Lee Waddell free. The resulting cross was met by Sam Lewis and even the opposition supporters had to applaud the quality of the goal!

Saturday 2nd December 1995 (away) Cricketers
Lost 0-2 Half Time : 0-0

Bridges : R.Stange, S.Hobbs, M.Maguire (S.Lawrence), U.Ojiaka, R.Jacob, K.Green, M.Ojiaka, M.Hill, S.Nunn, S.Lewis, L.Sullivan.
MOM : Lee Sullivan.

An awful performance. Stuart Hobbs conceded a penalty at the start of the second half and sloppy defending brought the second goal five minutes from time. But credit to keeper Dick Stange, who came in at late notice and made some good saves.

The 'A' team are not in action over the holiday period, their next match scheduled for Saturday 6th January 1996.

Clubhouse Chatter

As you can see, we've used the original Match Day programme from Boxing Day for this evening's match. But it's now **Tuesday 23rd January 1996**, and for both Bridges and Oakwood, it's been a point-less year so far!

A full **Match Analysis** on Saturday's 3-4 loss at home to **Pagham** will appear in our next programme, but we were obviously disappointed to lose after recovering from being two down in four minutes to lead 3-2! **Glen Newall** put us on the road to recovery with a volley that later **Gary Chandler** was trying to get credit for- he did however level the scores from a penalty and then set up **Brian Baker** to put us ahead. But two late slips cost us dearly - yet again!

Oakwood meanwhile were losing 0-3 at home to **Shoreham, Steve Guille** scoring twice, and **Crowborough Athletic** went down by the odd goal in three at **Hassocks** despite taking a first half lead through **Paul Marsh**.

Southwick lost to a single goal at home to **Arundel,** and **Eastbourne Town** crashed 1-4 at home to **Horsham YMCA**, but both Wickers and Town are still comfortably clear of the bottom three at the moment, and will remain so unless we start hanging on to our leads!

Town have 25 points from 24 games, Southwick are on 21 from 25, then come **Bridges** with 13 from 24, Crowborough 11 from 27 and Oakwood 8 from 22, so the bottom trio have it all to do if they're to close the gap.

The two other League games on Saturday both resulted in 1-1 draws, **Stuart Chandler** leaving it until the last minute to gain **Portfield** a point at **Ringmer**, whilst both goals came in the first half in the **Whitehawk** v **Hailsham Town** clash.

Burgess Hill Town survived the bleak surroundings at **Mile Oak** to win 4-0 in their **Sussex Senior Cup** tie (Hillians are now away to Hastings Town in the quarter finals), whilst the **John O'Hara League Cup** brought three close encounters. In the **Third Round, Wick** led at half time against **Stamco**, but two goals in the last quarter of an hour gave the visitors a 2-1

victory. Stamco now meet Shoreham for the right to meet **Langney Sports** in the semi finals, but Langney were made to fight in their **Fourth Round** tie at home to **Midhurst**, who are currently bottom of Division Two and were still nursing a 0-10 hammering at the hands of Saltdean United a week earlier. Midhurst led 2-0 at half time tanks to a brace from **Justin Thorpe**, and there were only three minutes of normal time left when **Stuart Addems** levelled the scores. **Derrick Smith** grabbed his second of the game but Midhurst's **Shane Brayson** levelled the scores again before **Simon Kibler** gave Langney a 4-3 victory!

Peacehaven are in the semi finals with a tie against Hailsham Town to be played at Langney Sports on 6th February, but it was a single goal from **Adie Chipper** that gave them victory at **Lancing** three days ago.

In **Division Two, Selsey** won the important clash away to **Redhill** 4-1 and **Saltdean United** are second following a 3-1 win at home to **Sidley United**, whilst in **Division Three** bottom club **Lingfield** could hardly have been expected to dent **Ifield**'s unbeaten record. **Lee Butcher** and **Andy West** were amongst the scorers as Ifield won 3-0, but it will be potentially tougher for them this Saturday when they travel to **Sidlesham**, who remain second after a 2-1 win at **Buxted**.

Newhaven's reign at the top of the **Reserve Section East** was brief as they were crushed 1-8 at **Sidley United**, but they have a chance of revenge when they meet again this Saturday! **Redhill** are now top following a 3-0 win at **Bexhill Town** - they have 33 points from 15 games, Sidley now second with the same points from 18 games. **Lewes** (31 from 15) went third after a 7-1 thrashing of **Seaford Town**, and then come Newhaven (31 from 16), **Bridges** (29 from 12) and **East Grinstead** (28 from 13), who beat **Eastbourne United** 2-0.

We were in **Mid Sussex Senior Cup** action at **Nutley**, where we won 6-1 - report in our next issue.

25 Years of County League Football
An A-Z by Alf Blackler

I've reached the letter **P** and as there aren't many beginning with **Q**, that's included in this section too!

Easily top of the list in Bridges personalities beginning with this letter is **Len Peters**, who deservedly won the main award at last season's County League Awards Dinner, the John O'Hara Loyalty Award for over fifty years' service to Three Bridges F.C. Len was a goalkeeper in his playing days, but he seems to have been Gateman in all my 25 years with the club!

He served as Chairman for one season and was a regular member of the Management Committee until about five seasons ago, when he elected to carry on serving the club as Gateman without having to attend meetings. Len's activities over the years in supporting the club and helping them are second to none, and he deservedly won The Tom Gorringe Trophy for Club Member of the Year in only its second year back in the late 70's. And his two sons **John** and **Christopher** also won the Supporters of the Year award seven years ago - we don't see so much of them these days, but that's what families do for you!

Whilst Len remains as my first choice official beginning with **P**, it's equally easy to select the player beginning with that letter. **Dave Palmer** was a brilliant striker with us throughout the 80's, but it was his first season with us, our promotion campaign of 1979/80, that he showed his scoring skills. A teacher with Hazelwick School, Dave hailed from Birmingham, and his thirty goals in our promotion year were just the first amongst 200 he netted in 300 appearances for us!

Two stories about Dave that I particularly recall - the first was after that last game in the 79/80 season, when Alan Bell's last gasp penalty ensured promotion. I can always recall Dave saying that despite his thirty goal contribution, Belly's goal was the one he really would have liked to have scored!

The other occasion was an F.A.Vase match against Ash United in 1982 when we played a home game at the Crawley Leisure

Centre. It was a frosty slippery pitch and players of both sides were occasionally finding it hard to keep their feet - Ash in fact protested after they'd lost the game 1-4! But Dave seemed to have skates on that day as he had probably his best ever game for us, scoring and creating goals and generally tormenting the Ash defence all afternoon.

Dave had a short spell at Oakwood, but he was always a Bridges man and he is still keenly involved with our Vets sides, still possessing blistering pace and being able to pass the ball as well as ever, although Alan Bell reckons that Dave isn't as good in front of goal as he is these days!

There was another **Dave Palmer** who wore the shirt of Three Bridges, in fact a number of times in the same line up as the afore mentioned striker. The second Dave was a left back who hailed from the North somewhere, having moved to Crawley as the Head of Sport at the Leisure Centre. Dave loved to organise coaching courses and eventually found that work gave him little time to play for us, but he was a dependable defender in the half a season he spent with us.

Peter Prior was a goalkeeper with us in the 70's, possibly a bit short for a keeper but a good shot stopper who played most of his football for us in the second and third teams; **Dave Pappa** was a midfielder/defender who always loved playing for us in the 70's and early 80's; **Jon Petty** is the current second choice keeper, his best position I've been convinced since seeing him have a stormer for our Youth side against Newhaven a few years ago, although Jon is very good too in midfield, as sweeper and at right back, the only position to date in which he's played for the first team; **Kevin Page** began this season as first team keeper, but is now having problems dislodging Jon Petty. Kevin came to us last season and is a good keeper - certainly the 'A' team aren't complaining about his quality!

Franny Pickett was a gangly forward who had a few games with us in the late 70's; **Keith 'Polly' Perkins** was a midfielder with us for a short spell at the end of the 80's, although he initially found fame as a free scoring forward with Steyning

Town in their Championship winning years; **Fred Pye** is one of our long serving supporters who takes the Waldorf part alongside Bob Hurren's Statler!; **Neil Pearson** was a quality midfielder who had a short spell with us back in the 80's and recently came up against us in Horsham YMCA's defence; and **Ron Parsons** was our physio in the late 80's and early 90's after first being the Sports Editor at the Crawley News. Coverage for Bridges in those days was excellent, although some of the other local clubs didn't feel Ron gave them an equal share, and Ron was another to have won the Club Member Award whilst he was here. Ron also managed Bridges Youth sides up to the Under 16 stage and his physio skills took him to Whyteleafe and later East Grinstead, although his heart is still with Bridges to this very day!

Two brothers in our Youth (Under 18's) side three years ago were **Kevin** and **Ian Payne**. Kevin was a tall skilful midfielder who captained our side for a season before moving to Oakwood, where he made their first team a few times, whilst Ian went with Simon Wormull to Tottenham on YTS terms. Ian, who could play anywhere - he was even goalkeeper in the Crawley News Fives - and once scored five goals in a Youth game at Newhaven, moved to Plymouth Argyle after a season at Spurs, and whilst Peter Shilton was manager, he was a regular in the second team and had the occasional run out for the first team. He has also been capped for Wales at Under 21 level and I find it hard to believe that he isn't good enough to get into Plymouth's side. Ian seemed to me to be a natural footballer blessed with the right temperament and skills, and I just hope that he gets the chance to prove himself at the right level.

Two more brothers who have played for Bridges are **Lee** and **Paul Power**. The latter played for us last season and seemed to have made the right back spot his own when he was given his first team chance late in the season, but he has since returned to East Grinstead, which is where Lee started and has been back and forwards twice since. Lee is the perfect utility man for us,

having played this season alone at right back, left back, a variety of midfield places and up front! He first burst into the limelight with a couple of goals at Seaford when he was a 17 year old, and last season he was voted joint Players Player of the Year with us. I thought he would return to East Grinstead this season, but he pleasantly surprised me and although it's been a tough season for us to date, Lee Power is one player who you can depend on to give his all to keep us up.

Another such player is **Danny Punt**, who has come on in leaps and bounds over the last eighteen months. Danny was a member of Oakwood's Youth team when he was in his teens, and whilst his towering presence made him a valuable member of that side, he was prone to the odd sending off or two! He came here as part of an 'A' team who installed a new spirit into our club, and after being a regular in the Reserves under Kevin Moyes, his form eventually made Bobby Nash give him a place. Dan has played at left back a few times, but he has now become first choice for his favoured position at the heart of our defence, and his never-say-die attitude may yet prove to be his only problem as he suffers from more injuries than any of us would like. A great competitor though and a player who could and should be the backbone of Bridges sides into the next century!

Three clubs beginning with **P** have seen battle with us over the years. Of these, **Portfield** have been easily the least successful, both against us and in First Division terms. Rather like us, they've often flattered to deceive - just when they look likely to win something major, something doesn't go quite right. They haven't always had the best luck with managers, often finding them either past their best or just being with Portfield until a 'better' offer comes along. But Portfield's pitch remains one of the best in the County, and we've had some good games against them, our best being a 6-2 win on their ground at the end of the 1988/89 season, when a teenage Dave Emms showed everyone that he was worth the first team place that seemed to elude him at the time!

Peacehaven has never been one of my favourite venues - too

many times the strong wind has made a farce of the game, but probably the real reason is that we have rarely fared well there! Since first getting into Division One in 1976/77, they have won the Championship six times, including three in the last four seasons, and the 1991/92 season proved particularly disastrous for us as they beat us 6-2 here and 8-1 at Piddinghoe Avenue in the League as well as smashing us 6-2 in the semi finals of the League Cup as well! **Alan Pook** was in his second spell as manager of Peacehaven at that time, having guided them to the Championship in 1981/82 and 1982/83 as well! Pook's playing career had been cut short by injury, but he proved to be one of the most successful managers the County League had ever known, and his brother **Geoff** helped by banging in a lot of goals for the earlier Championship sides.

Apart from a 3-1 win on the opening day of the 1990/91 season away to them, a goal-less draw there last season and a series of four wins and a draw in our five home games against them from 1984/85 to 1988/89 (3-0 in the last of them), I have precious few happy memories of games against Peacehaven, who may well be paying through the nose for their success! But they are easily the best side in the League with a great blend of skill, commitment and the art of choosing the right side for the right game!

In actual title terms, **Pagham** were even better than Peacehaven during the 80's with three Championships to Peacehaven's two, and perhaps I remember them most for the fact that we were runners up to Pagham in both 1987/88 and 1988/89. They were actually relegated in between their 1980/81 and 1987/88 successes however, and apart from in their relegation season of 1983/84 - when we beat them 3-0 at home and 4-1 away - they have had the better of our sortees generally, although we did beat them 3-0 at home in their last Championship season.

Both Pagham and Peacehaven were ordinary Second Division sides for much of my early association with the County League, but both came up in the late 70's and - apart from a couple of gliches by Pagham - have proved to be important members of

the First Division ever since.

Tony Plant was a goalkeeper with Peacehaven when they won their titles in the early 80's, and other goalkeepers who have impressed me in the last 25 years include **Charlie Pontin, Chris Porter** and most notably **Micky Phillips**, who I first saw as a teenager in Arundel's Reserve side. He looked good then and he hasn't let me down since - he's been a stalwart with Littlehampton Town and Wick mainly since leaving Arundel, and although he's still proving a difficult man to beat with Wick these days, he has more grey hairs than me too!

Mick Peters guided Arundel to the Championship in 1986/87 and is now their Chairman. I never really saw Mick playing, but he was an astute manager who had many a good battle of minds with Alan Knight, and he seems to be getting Arundel's affairs right both on and off the field these days.

Laurie Parsons was for many years the Registrations Secretary for the County League, always very helpful whenever I had to deal with him, and **Bill Parris** has been associated with Peacehaven ever since I first met him as a fellow member of the County League's Management Committee. Bill always has a cheery face and always tries to look on the bright side for the opposition as well as his beloved Peacehaven - quite simply, a very very very nice man!

Ken Powell, the Whitehawk Chairman, also falls into this category. He has worked hard for Hawks for more years than either of us care to remember, and he too served on the League's Management Committee alongside me for a couple of years.

A class act in Shoreham's midfield was **Neale Phillips**; ex-Brighton pros **Brian Powney** and **Steve Piper** had mixed County League experiences, Powney as the manager of struggling Seaford and Piper as a naturally classy defender/midfielder in Steyning's Championship side; the bald head of **Nigel Parkes** couldn't disguise the Eastbourne Town midfielder's skill on the ball; **Steve Pickles** is a solid competitor

at Wick; **Chris Putland** is a reliable defender with Eastbourne Town; **Vince Pettigrew** was a no nonsense midfielder with Hailsham Town back in the late 70's and early 80's; **Mick Packham** has served Whitehawk, mainly as a right back, for many years; and **Dave Plant** was a centre half with Peacehaven alongside goalkeeping brother Tony. Their Mum used to enjoy talking to me whenever I met her (they later both played for Southwick), although I think this was after I'd said a lot of nice things about them in the SCORE! magazine.

Good strikers were **Wayne Partridge** (Hastings) and **Tom Pegler** (Chichester, nowadays Pagham), and **Sid Pittman** has become a well known face around the County, not just as a referee but firstly as a Radio Sussex reporter (when the coverage was very good - it's garbage these days I think most people will agree!) and these days as the Editor of the League's Weekly Bulletin.

A player for the future could still be **David Pullen**, who was a valuable member of the Milton Mount Under 13 and Under 14 teams when I was manager. He was a left sided midfielder for me, although I tried him once or twice in a sweeper position, which I still think could be his best place. He played for Oakwood until recently, and I think he is probably at University these days - if Oaks don't want him on his return, we would be foolish not to look at one of the best young players I had the pleasure of working with.

A quick mention to the letter **Q** with three good players, namely **Jimmy Quigg**, a creative midfielder with Arundel and Burgess Hill amongst others; **Brendan Quirke**, a pacey and solid right back with Littlehampton, Arundel and Bexhill Town; and **Phil Quinlan**, another good full back with Southwick.

But I have to end with a return to Pagham. First, there's the three brothers **Peach**, right back **Cliff**, central defender **Graham** (these days their manager) and midfielder **Robbie**, all good players who have proved difficult opponents. I think that probably both Cliff and Graham were playing when we won 1-0 towards the end of the 1981/82 season. Referee that afternoon was **Gordon Preston**, who I always enjoyed chatting to.

Gordon had a sense of fun, but he could also be a touch dictatorial when he was refereeing, and he didn't take kindly to people on the bench questioning his decisions or his birthright! This particular day a few young supporters also decided to comment on Gordon's girth, and it came as no surprise when Dave Kew was ordered out of the dugout!

Worse was to follow for Pagham when we gained a late penalty which Bobby Nash converted to win the game. Harry Rowe was ordered off and goalkeeper John Allen, who'd never been booked in twenty years of County League football, found himself cautioned! But what I heard later was that Gordon had told Bobby Nash as the teams came back on for the second half that we would probably get a penalty! I hasten to add that I'm not saying it was true, but it's a good reason for never becoming a referee as I'm sure it's the way I'd have reacted given that much abuse!

I have to say I'm rather surprised that no-one noticed a terrible omission from this series when I featured the letter **J**. One of our great servants in the late 70's and 80's was **Chris Jenkins**, who first became interested via sponsorship. We used to get our trophies from Brookes Sports and the Jenkins family - notably Chris and his brother Ron - were regulars at our annual dinner dance and other functions.

Chris later became our Club President, and he proved to be a great ambassador for Three Bridges F.C. wherever he went. A gentleman through and through, Chris was a difficult man to replace when he died as he was a one off in my eyes. All I can say now is how the hell did I miss his name from this series!

Yes, I know I haven't mentioned **Carlos Pombo, Gary Palser** or **Gary Pucknell**, all of whom made first team appearances for us in the 90's. They probably totalled just over twenty games between them - eighteen of them by Carlos, who also played for Redhill and Oakwood, so I've mentioned them now - okay!

Behind The Scenes
No. 10 Paul Terry

Despite being a very good darts player, **Paul Terry** has never been a footballer of any standard worth mentioning! But like many Dads, Paul got into the game when his eldest son Jason showed promise from the age of eight! He was taken to Brighton by Bobby Nash and was playing for their Youth team, but as Jason began to shine in local sides, Paul felt that the training wasn't of the right standard! Bobby persuaded him to take up coaching and Paul gained his F.A.Preliminary Badge.

Born in Camberwell 41 years ago, Paul and his wife Mal have three sons, and until a year ago he was still managing Redifon's Sunday side (Furngate before that). But darts was Paul's first love (apart from Mal of course!) and he formed a Three Bridges darts team to play their home matches in our clubhouse.

"Doug Oliver saw my potential as an organiser and felt I could act in a Commercial role", recalls Paul, who then had ten years with Bridges, at one time becoming the first full time paid Commercial Manager at the club.

His administrative acumen caught the eye of Crawley Town, and he served them for two years before "business reasons caused me to give it up four or five years ago". But eighteen months ago he had a phone call from Redifon asking if he'd like to help develop their club.

"When I arrived there, my first thought was that they had to be joking", confesses Paul. "They were bottom of the Crawley League First Division, but when I saw familiar faces like Rick Fitzgerald, John Smith, Kieran Corrigan and Eddie Joselyn, it reminded me of the happy days I'd had at Bridges, and I decided to give it a go. I took on the Commercial activities and within six months I was Chairman of what was now Thomson Athletic. With a £50,000 grant, we made improvements to the pitch, the dugouts and the changing rooms, and we won the Championship and five Cups and achieved my immediate aim by gaining County League status".

Paul and Thomsons parted company only a few months into the season and Paul was left "in the wilderness, burnt out after a lot

of effort. But I had a number of offers from clubs, and I initially joined Oakwood. But Alan Bell was still talking to me a lot, and after three or four weeks, I realised I'd made a mistake. Naturally Alf Bridges was disappointed, especially as I'd based my building of Thomsons on his own work at Oakwood. But I hope we've remained friends and that he accepts that I can do so much more for Three Bridges".

So what are Paul's aims now? "I want two things - I want to help Bridges win the County League Championship and ultimately I want to become Chairman, but at this moment in time, I'm supporting Alan Bell all the way. I realise that talk of Championships looks foolhardy in our current position, but I accept that we'll have to start paying players because I think you have to buy the title these days. Looking further ahead, I want to see us in the Southern League, and people need to realise that we're in a new era of Commercial activities. The old ways of raffles and programmes are outmoded - sure, they bring in a handy few bob, but we need to be selling our facilities as much as possible".

A Manchester United fan whose favourite stars were Brian Robson and George Best, Paul also regards Bobby Nash as the best local player he's seen. "It's Bobby's type of commitment on the pitch that we now need to be showing both on and off the field, but I realise that I'm going to have to show some patience. Yes, I'm ambitious for the club", he finishes, "but I realise that it won't all happen overnight".

Next Fixture at the Jubilee Field

Saturday 27th January 1996 K.O. 3.00 p.m.
2nd XI v Midhurst and Easebourne United
(Reserve Section Cup Third Round)

We hadn't received our February fixtures at the time of printing, but meanwhile don't forget that this Saturday evening sees a **Race Night** at the club. Please support the first official function in the Clubhouse.

Behind The Scenes
No. 9 Paul Reynolds

Born in Stockwell 25 years ago, Paul Reynolds is now in his fourth season as a club physio. He used to play football, but when an injury was diagnosed as a hamstring problem which needed resting for two weeks, he duly waited his chance to get back into the action as a right sided midfielder.

"I was told by our physio at the time that it was okay to play at the weekend, but my knee locked within two minutes of the kick off, and I had to see a specialist and have an operation. They took out the whole cartilage and I was told to stop playing if I didn't want to end up a cripple!"

So he started to watch his mates like Mark Archard, Danny Punt and Steve Spencer play, first for the Charcoal Burner on Sundays and then with the third team here. "I watched them for one season and when Kevin Moyes was looking for a physio, I decided to train for the job and it kept me involved in football".

But Paul isn't one to rest on his laurels. "I still have a lot to learn, and Jock (MacConnell) has helped me a great deal already. Having him here helps take the load off me and I can now find some time to do more courses and I'm even taking an Open University course in fitness and nutrition".

Paul has a full First Aid badge, but he is still looking to gain experience and as he points out he has "youth on my side".

A Crystal Palace fan whose all time hero is Peter Taylor, he now likes seeing Brian Roy in action. As for the current problems at Bridges, "I have no doubt that we'll get better. We have no choice but to look at our younger players and build around our more experienced ones. Most of the top sides seem to have a number of players in their thirties, but many of the players in our side that are now classed as experienced are my age. Our average age is probably even lower than that, but we have no option but to keep faith with the players we've got". No doubt Paul will be helping with their fitness for some time to come.

One Man And His Dog - Life In Wales and Norfolk

As many of you know, Programme Editor Alf Blackler's constant excuse for the poor standard of programmes on occasions this season has been his work commitments, which have taken him to all points on the UK map.

But whilst weekend work has been a bind in many ways, Alf has made certain that he's seen some sort of football whenever possible, and amongst the enthralling matches were a pre season friendly between Stirling Albion and Motherwell and an F.A. Carling Premiership clash between Blackburn Rovers and his beloved Chelsea (no mention of the score incidentally!).

But two games he's seen in recent weeks brought comparison to the County League, and here are Alf's touchline views :

Saturday 25th November 1995 Welsh Football League Div 2
Bridgend Town v Porth Towyn

One of the girls working in my company's Bridgend Branch mentioned that her husband was a director of the club and her 19 year old son was playing for the princely sum of £15 per week, "enough for his beer money on a Saturday night" she told me!

How many do you get at home games? She told me that she didn't go anyway, but that the average was about twenty! Even when they won the Southern League, they were lucky to get many more than fifty apparently!

So, her husband John and I met and went to see them entertain the strangely named (to me at least) Porth Towyn. Bridgend started the better side, no doubt fired up by the fact that a week earlier the same two teams had met in a Cup tie, with Porth Towyn winning on penalties.

The son, Ian, played a part in their opening goal scored by an impressive little midfielder called Tino Meli (good Welsh name that!), but when Ian was later caught offside, his description of

the linesman's decision earned him a yellow card from a referee who just happened to be standing next to him at the time!

The visitors equalised shortly before half time, and then came a rather embarassing moment for me when Ian's challenge had the Porth supporters (about four of them) calling for blood. With father and Grandfather either side of me predicting an early bath for their boy, the referee immediately proved them correct and Ian even threw his shirt into the crowd (three more of them) before his manager made him retrieve it!

The visitors took control for a while with two splendid goals, but a penalty gave Bridgend hope and two minutes from time they equalised. But it wasn't to be a fairy tale ending as in the last minute, Porth Towyn were also awarded a penalty. Up stepped defender Wayne Griffiths and he duly lashed home what proved to be the winner (4-3), no doubt his father Terry (yes, the very same Terry Griffiths) feeling much happier than John, who missed the last two goals because he had to go to work!

And no, I didn't get to talk to Griffiths Senior, who apparently was engrossed at half time by a TV showing Stephen Hendry making a maximum 147 break!

Saturday 9th December 1995 Jewson League Premier Div.
Fakenham Town v Soham Town Rangers

I quite fancied going to see Norwich City v Grimsby Town, but my mate Steve told me that you had to be a member to get a ticket. We were also going to watch his eldest son James (a tall lad for 13) play for Norfolk Schools, but that was called off, so instead we went along to the delightfully named Barons Hall Lawn to see Steve's local side Fakenham in action.

The crowd was just over a hundred I would think, and the ground was obviously also used for cricket in the summer. But the major shock for me was that included in the Fakenham line

up was Luther Blissett - yes, the former Watford, AC Milan and England striker!

The first thing that struck me about him was that he ran awkwardly, his left leg seeming to be shorter than his right! But one touch of skill led to a blatant pull back by a defender, who wasn't even spoken to by the referee, who presumably felt that a penalty was sufficient punishment.

Luther, Fakenham's leading scorer with fourteen goals from 23 games, took the penalty himself - and blazed wide!

No goals at half time, but midway through the second half a guy with the rather unfortunate name of Wayne Coe (no prizes for guessing what the visiting supporters called him!) caught one of those volleys that all players dream of. Soham's keeper had looked nigh on unbeatable for much of the afternoon, but this 45 yard effort dipped unbelievably right under the bar to warm up the crowd.

When the keeper then brought down Luther's fellow striker Mark Howard, the referee again did no more than award a penalty, and it wasn't as though he was afraid to use his book either. Fakenham led 2-0 on bookings and Howard this time took a successful penalty to make it 2-0 on goals as well.

Soham's supporters made a frenzied appeal for a penalty themselves late in the game, and they became even more aggrieved when Soham grabbed a last minute goal. "It should have been a draw", was their opinion - "a clear case of handball" they cried. Maybe they were right, but when I tried to suggest that their keeper and centre half could have both been sent off, for some reason they weren't so agreeable!

I enjoyed the visits to both Bridgend and Fakenham, and I can say that the general standard at both was no better than in the Sussex County League, and I'm not just talking about the players - it seems that supporters, officials and referees are all pretty much alike wherever you go as well!

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25 Years Of County League Football
An A-Z by Alf Blackler

We've reached the letter **N**, and in my 25 years with the County League, there has only been one side beginning with that letter. **Newhaven** gained promotion from Division Two in 1971/72 and then won the Championship in some style in 1973/74.

For a while, they were quite a formidable outfit, but they went downhill and were in dire straits at the foot of Division Two by the mid 80's! But with the help of local businessmen and the Council, they got back on the right rails and came back into Division One at the turn of the 90's. Last season they were relegated again, but signs are that it won't be for long.

I can remember losing games there we should never have lost, and certainly at the end of last season, we should never have lost 0-1 at home to them. We did however manage a 5-0 win away to them when Graham Rashbrook wouldn't be able to take much tough tackling according to one of their touchline 'experts'. Rashers' response was as good as you'd want it to be - he hit a hat trick for us!

I also remember a Youth team game there in the Sussex County Cup. We stormed to a 7-1 victory with Ian Payne getting five for us and Jon Petty having a superb game in goal at a time when he was generally used more in midfield for us!

Of all the names beginning with the letter, the two that stand out for me have to be **Bobby Nash** and **Bill Norris**. Alan Knight might disagree with me, but I thought Bill was easily the best goalkeeper we've had in my years with the club - Alan however put Dave Walker in the side when Bill was injured and then kept Dave there. The fact that Dave went on to play for Sussex shows that Mr. Knight obviously knows more about football than I do!

But with no disrespect to Dave, Bill should have played for Sussex long before that! He was a commanding figure in goal,

good on crosses and a great shot stopper, and he talked - boy, how he talked! In fact, Bill was probably one of the biggest whingers I've known in football, a bit like Steve Welch really in that he never stopped moaning!

Bill fell four short of 200 appearances for us, but he was a star even when he conceded fourteen goals as we qualified for the final of the Thorn EMI six-a-side tournament at which we won our floodlights! For Bill recognised that it was goals scored that mattered whilst goals conceded (other than in the final) made no difference at all. When he was confronted by a one-on-one situation, Bill would almost step aside to let the guy score just so we could regain possession and get the ball to the other end so that we could score too!

A super character who suffered from back injuries (and not just through picking the ball out of the back of the net!), he has helped on the management side (mainly with the Reserves) over the last few years, but this season has started to play in earnest again with Thomson Athletic.

As for Nashy, has there ever been such a character in County League football? Bobby is simply a one off (some might say good job!), but you cannot fault him for his utter enthusiasm for the game. When I first saw him playing for Hastings Town and later for a brief spell as player manager of Rye United, he seemed to be everything you loathed in football. He loved to intimidate opponents both on and off the field, and when he asked Harry Easton if he'd be welcome at Three Bridges in 1981, my first reaction was similar to many others - are you sure, Harry?

How wrong could you be? Bob simply loved the game and the banter that went with it - he was a pro with QPR and Exeter City, and he cared passionately for the game of football. Yes, he had his bad moments with a couple of sending offs and more than his fair share of bookings, both as player and manager, but he always loved Three Bridges and perhaps that's been his downfall. He wanted Bridges to be successful, but he found it difficult to do the job to his own satisfaction and blamed lack of money for this. When he tried to do the job knowing that

money wasn't there, I felt he actually made a pretty reasonable job of it, but then along would come the poor result and Bob would blame it on lack of funds!

But let's look at his more positive attributes now. He was a great player at both left back and as sweeper, and I'm convinced to this day that if he hadn't been injured for our F.A.Vase tie at Molesey, we would have been in the quarter finals instead of them. He was a great motivator on the field and his passing at times was breathtaking, and it was great to see his Dad **Charlie** celebrating with him so emotionally at the end of the 1983 RUR Cup Final, when Bob skippered us to victory over - ironically - Hastings Town, with whom he won promotion alongside us in 1979/80.

Mum **Wyn** was another great character who served behind our tea bar for a number of years and won the affection of supporters, players and officials alike, and when Bob stopped playing, he proved to have few equals (Vic Bragg probably his nearest rival) as a coach in the county. That's what he's doing again at East Grinstead and it's what he does best in my view - opinions on his management skills may vary, but Bob will always be welcome at the Jubilee Field.

Perversely, he had a namesake in **Nigel Nash**, and here again I'm at odds with Alan Knight! Nigel was another character off the field, but I never ever saw him have a good game on it either for us or against us! But Alan used to insist that he was a good player - sorry, Alan, I just couldn't see what you saw in him. Nigel has since shown his skills in management and coaching, and I can't criticise him for that at all, but I just would have liked him to prove me wrong about him at Bridges!

A great forward for us was **Bobby North** when we won promotion in the mid 70's. He was a teenager then who had suffered a broken leg whilst trying to start a career in the game with West Ham United, but he seemed content to play at a lower level for many years despite getting every encouragement to play here, and a couple of seasons ago he still looked to have more pace than many around him when he was playing for Lingfield.

Zak Newman was a natural goalscorer who was on the fringe of pro football. I'm still not sure why he didn't make it at a higher level, although his scoring record let him down a touch in a brief spell here. Oakwood were however more than grateful for his contribution to their cause last season, especially when they beat us at the **Crawley News Fives** (the best competition of its type in the South over the last decade and more) last May in a special game where the players of both sides had to have competed in the tournament when they were kids. Oaks' manager at the time, Alan Gould, was struggling to get a side under those rules until I told him Zak was eligible - Zak hit a hat trick in the 4-1 win over us!

Glen Newall is a very promising player who joined us from Oaks this season, whilst **Steve Nunn** I've known since he was twelve! Steve has been in and out of all three sides this season, and maybe it's his make or break season - I hope that he makes it as he has a lot of talent and a great natural enthusiasm for the game - plus it'll keep his Dad **Dave** both quiet and happy!

Players from other clubs include Hastings Town duo **Dave Nessling** and **Pete Nwaji**. The latter was a dependable defender or midfielder, whilst Dave was their goalkeeper when they pipped us for the Second Division title in 1979/80. Even then he wasn't happy when the referee awarded a penalty to us in the 88th minute!

Darren Newman is a class player at Peacehaven - he, like Bobby Nash, has a tendency to wind up opposition supporters, but there is no doubt that he is very skilful and is a good ball winner.

Eric Newman was Referees Secretary when I first joined the County League Management Committee, and Eric was always ready to joke about football and people. Used to the criticism suffered by all match officials, he used to turn the jokes around and make supporters wonder what had hit them!

Lastly in this section I have to mention **Eric Nunn**, another of those 'nice guys' you meet in football. Eric has been associated with Pagham in virtually every important position for more years than he'll care to remember, but he had a scare a few years ago and found that he had to ease off a bit. It's good to report that whilst he doesn't serve Pagham officially anymore, he is still to be seen at Nyetimber Lane and many other County League grounds, and he's always a splendid host and guest. Long may he continue!

The Man In The Middle

39 year old ("too old") Londoner Steve Savage has been a referee for twelve years and this is his eighth season on the County League list. He also serves on the Beazer Homes and local Leagues, and the last time he was here was "when you played East Grinstead either last season or the season before". As for Oakwood, "I last refereed them about three years ago against Bridges".

Obviously, his Crawley roots make it difficult for him to be appointed to many of either side's games, although Steve says "I don't think referees are bias. I like to think I'm straight down the middle, but I can understand why Peter Bentley and co. drop us all over the County. But I'm like the players in that I'm out there to enjoy the game, although it's probably harder to referee in games where you know the people rather than those where you don't".

Married with three children, Steve is a Clinical Supplies Manager by trade, and his personal ambition is simply to "stay healthy and hope the family does too". As for footballing aims "I just want to officiate at any game at any standard. I suppose there is one place I'd like to officiate at that is unlikely and that's White Hart Lane, and yes, of course I'd be unbias!"

So Just How Will Today's Game Finish?

Predictions are a dangerous pastime, but we couldn't resist the temptation to ask some of the local personalities to pass judgement on this local derby.

Let's start in the Bridges camp where skipper **Darren Hinton** felt that it would be "very difficult". He added "current form can go out of the window. We were up for it last year, but I think it will be close this time and whoever has the most motivation will triumph".

Peter Ranson just hopes that the result will "be the same as last year", and **Kevin Moyes** was the first to actually predict a score - "we'll win 3-1 and Lee Power will get the first goal" says Mystic Moyesey!

Darren Cooke was listening at the time and he rather tongue in cheek plumped for "4-0 with Malty getting the first and me getting a hat trick!"

Graham Rashbrook, who has played for both clubs this season, was much more bullish - "they haven't got a chance. They can't match our quality and I expect us to win by at least five goals!" Maybe Graham didn't notice that Hailsham only managed four ten days ago, and I for one don't expect Oaks' defence to be as generous as last Boxing Day.

Manager **Alan Knight** was much more philosophical. "Local derbies always have extra spice and it should be more interesting this year bearing in mind the League positions. But I'll be looking for us to get the three points as I would be in any other game whether it be Oakwood or Stamco!"

Even Match Referee **Steve Savage** expects it to be "a bit of a dogfight. On current form you'd expect Bridges to come out on top, but I suspect it could be scrappy, and the state of the pitch might play its part, particularly if the ground is hard".

In the Oakwood camp, neither **Paul Crimmen** or **Mark Richardson** were prepared to predict a score. "I always feel that Boxing Day is a funny day to play this fixture", says Paul. "It will obviously be tough and it will be the team that wants to win

most as opposed to necessarily the best side that will win. There is added spice this year with Bridges also needing the points, but I wouldn't expect lots of goals as it's not likely to be that type of game. One goal either way might well settle it".

Mark reckons that it will be the side that "works hardest" that will win, but "any spectator who has seen the Bridges-Oakwood games over the years will tell you that we rarely see a good football match, so don't expect a classic!"

Oakwood's Secretary **Gerry Martin** looked at the game as a potential "clash of the giants", but added that "it's the first time where this fixture has had any real meaning. Previously it's been a matter of pride, but this time we both need the points. Whenever I've seen Bridges this season I've felt they look to be in a false position, whilst we basically need to score".

So, it's down to the local press for their summing up. **Simon Milham** of the Observer says "if Oakwood can get behind Bridges' back line, they could surprise them, but I somehow doubt it. Home win".

Richard Cawley of the News feels "it will be tight and it won't be attractive, but the Bridges boys should nick it 2-0", whilst his team-mate **Phil Agius** brings us back to where we started with the old cliche that "League form usually goes out of the window in derby games, and it certainly will here because someone has to get some points! However, Bridges seem to be further along the road to recovery and can take it 2-1".

All I can add to that is that I'd like to see the best team on the day win - just make sure it's us Bridges! Oakwood have all my good wishes after today!

BRIDGES - THE FACTS FILE

Appearances

	USCL		FAC		FAV		SSC		RUR		JOLC		SFC		WHC		Bridges Career Totals					
																	League		Cups		TOTALS	
	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	App	Sub	App	Sub	App	Sub
MARK ARCHARD	7	2	1						1								14	11	3		17	11
ADAM AYLWARD	5	1		1	1				1								33	3	9	1	42	4
BRIAN BAKER	14	1			1		1		1		1		1				62	17	35	8	97	25
PAUL BLACKLER													1				6		3		9	
BRENDAN CARNEY	4		1							1							4		1	1	5	1
DANNY COOK	14		1		1						1						91	5	42		133	5
DARREN COOKE	9	1	1				1						1				75	21	36	6	111	27
TONY DUGDALE	13				1		1		1		1		2				129		53		182	
LANCE EARLY	8	2	1		1								2				21	9	5	3	26	12
LAINE EATON	3	1			1				1		1			1			3	1	3	1	6	2
DAVID EMMS		1															74	15	21	5	95	20
MARK HEWITT	1																4	2			4	2
DARREN HINTON	15			1	1		1		1				1				41		11	1	52	1
ANDY JORDAN	2	4					1		1				1				2	4	3		5	4
MATT KARCHA		1																1				1
STEVE KNIGHT	7	2	1					1	1								7	2	2	1	9	3
DAVE LEACH	5	1		1							1						56	9	7	9	63	18
PAUL LEAVER	15				1		1		1		1		1				139		57	2	196	2
DES LYONS	4	2	1														4	2	1		5	2
MALCOLM MACKINNON		1															26	15	14	6	40	21
MARTIN MAGUIRE	2																2	1	1		3	1
JOHN MALTHOUSE	18		1		1		1		1		1		2				328	12	138	5	466	17
KEVIN MOYES												1								1		1
GLEN NEWALL	4	4									1		2				4	4	3		7	4
STEVE NUNN		3				1											2	13		1	2	14
KEVIN PAGE	7		1														9		1		10	
LEE POWER	10						1						2				48	9	14	4	62	13
DANNY PUNT	10	1					1						2				42	7	12		54	7
PETER RANSON	12	2	1														218	3	98		316	3
GRAHAM RASHBROOK	6	1					1										71	5	14	2	85	7
LUKE RINGROSE	6										1		1	1			6		2	1	8	1
STEVE SPENCER																	8	1			8	1
STEVE THOMAS	1				1												224	4	113	4	337	8
LEE WADDELL		2																2				2
MARK WADDELL		3											1					4	1		1	4
STEVE WELCH	3	2	1								1		1				159	8	89		248	8
TIM WHITEHOUSE	3	2						1			1		1				3	2	2	1	5	3
DAVID YEARWOOD	12				1		1		1								71	12	21		92	12

Only Playing Substitute Appearances are Recorded in Career Totals

USCL = Unijet Sussex County League
FAC = Football Association Challenge Cup
FAV = Football Association Challenge Vase
SSC = Sussex County Senior Cup
RUR = Sussex County RUR Charity Cup
JOLC = John O'Hara League Challenge Cup
SFC = Sussex Floodlight Cup
WHC = William Hill Cup

Scorers	USCL	FAC	FAV	SSC	RUR	JOLC	SFC	WHC	Bridges League	Career Totals Cups	TOTALS
MARK ARCHARD	1								2		2
ADAM AYLWARD	1								2		2
BRIAN BAKER	4								25	10	35
DANNY COOK	3								14	1	15
DARREN COOKE							1		5	3	8
DAVE LEACH	1								3	1	4
DES LYONS	1								1		1
JOHN MALTHOUSE	4				1		1		79	39	118
GLEN NEWALL	2								2		2
LEE POWER	4								10		10
GRAHAM RASHBROOK	1								11		11
LUKE RINGROSE						1				1	1
MARK WADDELL							1			1	1
TIM WHITEHOUSE						1				1	1
DAVID YEARWOOD	1								3	2	5

Men of the Match	USCL	FAC	FAV	SSC	RUR	JOLC	SFC	WHC
PAUL BLACKLER							1	
BRENDAN CARNEY	2							
DANNY COOK	4	1	1					
LANCE EARLY	1							
LAINE EATON	1							
DARREN HINTON	2			1				
STEVE KNIGHT	1							
DAVE LEACH	1							
PAUL LEAVER					1			
MARTIN MAGUIRE	1							
JOHN MALTHOUSE	2							
GLEN NEWALL	1							
LEE POWER							1	
DANNY PUNT	3							
STEVE WELCH						1		
DAVID YEARWOOD	1							

Non Playing Substitutes	USCL	FAC	FAV	SSC	RUR	JOLC	SFC	WHC
LANCE EARLY	1							
LAINE EATON	1							
DAVID EMMS	1							
PAUL FOOTE	1							
ANDY JORDAN	2							
DAVE LEACH	2		1				1	
MALCOLM MACKINNON	1							
MARTIN MAGUIRE	1							
JOHN MANN	1							
KEVIN MOYES	4						1	
GLEN NEWALL	1					1		
STEVE NUNN	1				1			
PETER RANSON	1							
STEVE SPENCER	1					1		
MARK WADDELL								
TIM WHITEHOUSE	1							
DAVID YEARWOOD								

RESERVE SECTION – EAST DIVISION

(as at 16th December 1995)

LEAGUE TABLE	P	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F-A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F-A	PTS	G/D
1. Redhill	13	5	3	–	26-5	3	–	2	11-9	27	+23
2. Three Bridges ...	11	4	2	1	21-9	4	–	–	12-5	26	+19
3. East Grinstead ..	11	7	–	–	21-3	1	1	2	11-11	25	+18
4. Newhaven	13	6	–	1	26-11	2	1	2	7-5	25	+17
5. Sidley United ...	14	2	2	2	17-15	5	1	2	19-11	24	+10
6. Lewes	11	5	1	1	15-7	2	–	2	11-7	22	+12
7. Saltdean United .	14	2	2	1	7-4	4	2	3	16-12	22	+7
8. Franklands Vill .	15	–	3	2	11-15	5	2	3	22-14	20	+3
9. Bexhill Town	12	2	1	1	12-9	3	3	2	19-10	19	+12
10. Oakwood	14	4	–	5	12-18	1	4	–	12-10	19	-4
11. Eastbourne United	14	3	1	4	7-7	1	1	4	6-16	14	-10
12. Seaford Town	15	2	–	5	15-30	–	1	7	3-43	7	-55
13. Haywards Heath Tn	14	1	1	4	3-10	–	1	7	12-25	5	-20
14. Lingfield	14	–	2	4	11-27	–	1	7	9-25	3	-32

RESULTS CHART

EAST SECTION	BEX	E.G	E.U	FRA	HAY	LEW	LIN	NEW	OAK	RED	SAL	SEA	SID	THB
BEXHILL TOWN	x	–	–	–	4-2	1-5	–	–	2-2	–	–	5-0	–	–
EAST GRINSTEAD ...	2-1	x	–	P	3-2	–	2-0	2-0	–	–	1-0	6-0	5-0	–
EASTBOURNE UNITED	0-2	3-0	x	0-2	2-0	–	0-0	0-2	–	–	0-1	–	2-0	–
FRANKLANDS VILLAGE	–	2-2	–	x	–	1-4	–	–	3-3	–	–	–	2-2	2-4
HAYWARDS HEATH TWN	–	–	–	1-4	x	–	1-0	0-3	–	0-1	1-1	P	0-1	–
LEWES	1-3	–	1-1	3-0	–	x	4-2	1-0	P	2-1	3-0	–	–	–
LINGFIELD	1-8	–	–	1-5	3-3	–	x	–	–	–	–	3-4	2-2	1-5
NEWHAVEN	–	5-3	4-1	–	4-2	–	3-1	x	–	–	2-1	6-0	–	2-3
OAKWOOD	2-1	1-6	W/L	0-2	4-1	–	–	–	x	0-3	–	5-1	0-2	0-2
REDHILL	1-1	P	5-0	4-1	–	2-0	3-0	2-2	–	x	1-1	8-0	–	P
SALTDEAN UNITED ..	2-2	–	1-2	1-0	–	–	–	–	0-0	–	x	3-0	–	–
SEAFORD TOWN	–	–	–	1-5	2-1	–	5-3	–	3-5	2-6	1-3	x	1-7	–
SIDLEY UNITED	–	–	–	2-2	–	–	7-3	–	2-2	5-0	0-5	–	x	1-3
THREE BRIDGES	1-1	–	5-2	1-1	3-1	3-2	–	–	–	–	–	–	8-0	0-2	x

THREE BRIDGES FOOTBALL CLUB

MESSAGE TO : Paul Terry.
FROM: The committee, players and supporters.

Paul has been with us now for a couple of months. Co-ordinating the progression of the new lounge and several other special projects with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

He has a lot of experience in the behind the scenes workings of a football club and we are very fortunate in being able to tap in to that experience. Lets hope the knowlegde available flows as well as the beer on tap.

This is Paul's second spell at Three Bridges and he has already achieved so much. He is responsible for the effiecient operation of the clubhouse, you will all know immediately who he is because he will be wearing the fire proof silver jacket and trousers. If there is a midweek game he might put on the oxygen tank too!!!!

Jokes aside Paul is a great asset to the club, with him on board we can only go from strength to strength.

THANKS PAUL.

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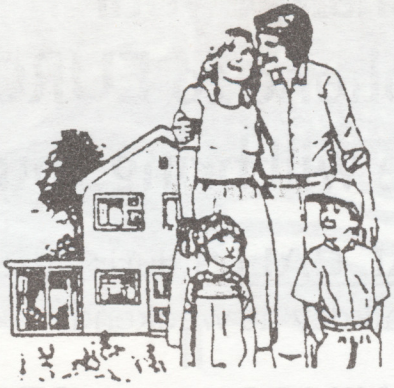

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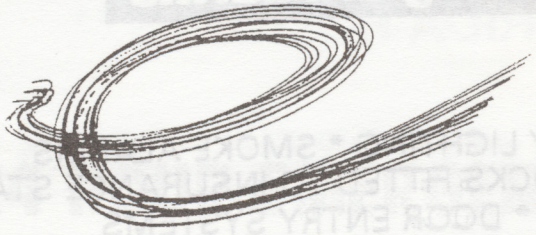

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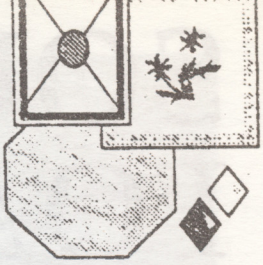

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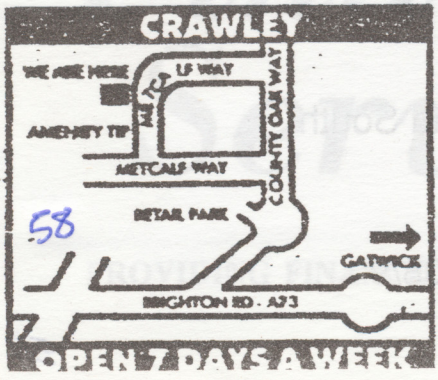

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ATTO THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOUR OPERATORS

ATOL 2528

IATA ACCREDITED AGENT

SEE ITV **Teletext** P. 259 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Freshfield House, Lewes Road, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5ES Tel: 01342 825123 Fax No. 01342 822364

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Tel: 01293 561180
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